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Duxbury Clipper

## Woods Renamed for Former Doctor

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

Dr. Lansing H. Bennett loved to walk the trails of the Trout Farm Conservation Area. Recently, this land was renamed after Bennett in honor of his dedication to preserving greenspace in the town.

"This was one of his most favorite places," Bennett's daughter Holly Morris said as she walked through the Lansing Bennett Forest.

Bennett was memorialized

acquire open space and he was instrumental in helping secure Trout Farm."

However, Bennett was unable to receive this honor in person. He was killed in 1993 by a terrorist sniper on his way to work at the CIA. But Morris guessed how the dedication would have made her father feel.

"I think he would've been extremely humbled," she said. "He was quite a character. It's

**"My dad wanted the town to protect the groundwater, the greenspace and the historical houses,"**

**-Holly Morris**

during the Duxbury's 18th Fall Foliage Fiesta held on Sunday, Oct. 16 at Trout Farm on Union Bridge Road. The Duxbury Open Space Committee and the Rural and Historical Society co-sponsored the event.

Many residents were familiar with Bennett as their health care provider. Being a physician, Bennett knew the importance of protecting the groundwater supply.

"My dad wanted the town to protect the groundwater, the greenspace and the historical houses," Morris said.

Bennett also helped develop the town's Greenbelt System. Morris said her father encouraged the town to buy pieces of this greenspace and have this area deemed conservation land. The Greenbelt System is listed in a 2000 conservation land map as consisting of three sections. The western belt begins at the wetlands in the western part of town. The eastern belt runs along Island Creek to Island Creek Pond to North Hill Marsh to West Brook and then to Back River. The central belt links the eastern and western sections through Round Pond to the South River in Camp Wing.

Now, a portion of the land Bennett worked tirelessly to protect bears his name.

hard to describe him. He had an incredible sense of humor. He was very intelligent and very witty."

In addition to preserving the town environmentally, Bennett attempted to capture residents' oral histories.

"He loved meeting people," Morris said. "He would talk with people in town about their rich histories."

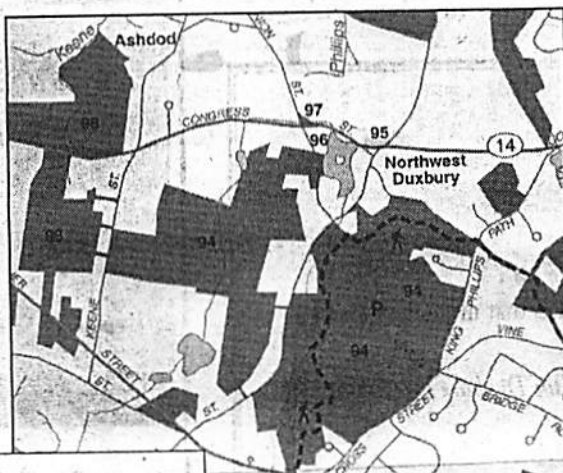
Morris said her dad would use a tape recorder to create a permanent record of a snapshot of a person's life. Bennett's practice allowed him to meet new residents and develop an appreciation for the town.

"People that were former patients came up to me at the dedication," Morris said. "They would tell me how he delivered their children. I was really moved."

Kay Foster remembered Bennett from her days serving on the conservation commission with him.

"He was great fun. He was an extraordinary man," Foster said.

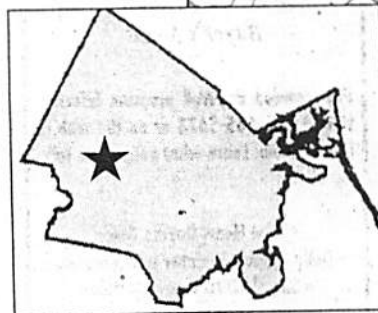
Selectman John Tuffy and former selectman and conservation commissioner Friend



**This area of conservation land formerly known as Trout Farm was renamed Lansing Bennett Forest in honor of Dr. Lansing H. Bennett.**

Weiler spoke about Bennett during the ceremony. Morris said over 50 people attended the dedication.

"It was touching," she said. "The open space committee has done a great job keeping the trails in order. I'm grateful to them."



"An article went before town meeting last March about renaming that piece of land," Paula Harris, chairwoman of the open space committee, said. "Dr. Bennett was a pioneer in helping Duxbury